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September 5, 2006

For Immediate Release:

AREA BUSINESSMAN, AUTHOR, SPEAKER TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

CHARLESTON -- Jack Schultz, local entrepreneur, developer, philanthropist, author and national speaker, will receive the 2006 Beta Gamma Sigma International Medallion for Entrepreneurship at a ceremony Wednesday at Eastern Illinois University.

He will receive his award at 6 p.m. in the Roberson Auditorium of EIU's Lumpkin Hall. Schultz plans to discuss entrepreneurship following the presentation. The public is invited to attend.

A private reception will be held in his honor prior to the presentation.

"The Entrepreneurship Medallion is awarded to outstanding individuals who combine innovative business achievement with service to humanity," said Mike Wilson, EIU Beta Gamma Sigma adviser. "Jack Schultz exemplifies that."

The BGS Medallion for Entrepreneurship was established to provide appropriate recognition to those individuals and firms who contribute significantly to the vitality and strength of the economy. The accomplishments of the individuals may be domestic or worldwide, but must be consistent with the ideals of Beta Gamma Sigma.

Schultz' selection was announced during the International Honoree Luncheon held last April in Paris, France, at the annual meeting of AACSB International. Past recipients of the award include Florine Mark, president and CEO of The Weight Watchers Group, Inc.; S. Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of Chick-fil-A restaurants; and Michael Coles, founder of The Great American Cookie Company, to name a few.

The EIU chapter has had two previous international award recipients -- alumnus Robert A. Ingram, vice president of pharmaceuticals at GlaxoSmithKline as an international honoree in 2000, and Richard A. Lumpkin, chairman, Consolidated Communications, as a Medallion for Entrepreneurship recipient in 1995.

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“We are proud of Mr. Schultz’ accomplishments and his support of Eastern Illinois University,” said Diane Hoadley, dean of the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences. “He has given generously of his time, talents and resources over the years in an effort to build our communities, educate others and support those in need. Our students, programs and communities benefit from his knowledge, experience and generosity.”

Schultz is founder and CEO of Agracel, Inc., an industrial development firm specializing in the agurban® market. The company focuses on bringing high-tech manufacturing jobs to the ex-urban market by supporting and stimulating the entrepreneurship spirit in small town America. In the past 10 years, his company has grown from a total of four employees to 50, and has helped facilitate the creation of 5,500 jobs nationwide.

Schultz also serves on the board of Altorfer, Inc.; Effingham State Bank; and Midland States Bancorp. He has also served as a trustee of the Illinois State University Retirement System (SURS),

As a philanthropist and avid civic leader, Schultz provides direction to the East Central Illinois Development Corp., Eastern Illinois University Foundation, Effingham County Community Foundation, and to nine other non-profit organizations, including schools of business, hospitals, colleges and commissions.

He is best known as a premier authority in economic development, and is recognized for his ongoing research and vast knowledge of rural America. In his book “Boomtown USA: The 7 ½ Keys to Big Success in Small Towns,” and the popular presentation by the same name, Schultz exposes the well-hidden truth of America’s hometowns that he fondly calls “the agurbs®.”

He established Boomtown Institute to better share his continuous research and sought-after knowledge. According to Schultz, “vision is the difference between a ghost town and a Boomtown,” and he inspires communities to construct their own vision deliberately, not waiting on the inevitable to happen.

A nationally known speaker and author, Schultz talks to many great communities that have the potential of becoming a Boomtown.